

APRIL 2004

# HOUSE & GARDEN

DESIGN AT ITS

# BEST

SPECIAL SURVEY

FURNITURE & FABRICS:  
DECORATORS REVEAL  
FAVORITE SOURCES



# Domestic Bliss

IN PROJECTS BIG AND SMALL, DECORATOR CAREY MALONEY AND ARCHITECT HERMES MALLEA, A.K.A. M (GROUP), ARE MASTERS OF COORDINATION. HERE THEY SHOW US HOW TO MAKE EVERY DETAIL COUNT



Carey Maloney, left, and Hermes Mallea in Maloney's dining room. The turquoise porcelain spans countries and time periods. "For me, it's all about the color rather than the type," Maloney says. The 210 chairs are by M (Group), at Dennis Miller Associates.

## AT HOME WITH... M (GROUP)

"We tend to want to unify things within a home in both obvious and not so obvious ways," says Carey Maloney, describing the approach to decoration and design of M (Group), the firm that he and Hermes Mallea founded 20 years ago. "Tying in is part of our philosophy. Things should weave together, as opposed to really contrasting with each other." The duo pool their talents—Maloney as a decorator and Mallea as an architect—to create sophisticated interiors. ▸

BY SHAX RIEGLER ■ PHOTOGRAPHED BY PASCAL CHEVALLIER ■ STYLED BY CYNTHIA FRANK

PHOTO: JEFF WOODRUFF FOR M (GROUP); STYLING: CYNTHIA FRANK

## AT HOME WITH...

### CAREY MALONEY & HERMES MALLEA

The interiors have a surface simplicity that often belies the depth of thought behind them. Like Savile Row suits, these subtly sumptuous interiors are tailored to create a harmonious effect. The results are rooms that can grow with an owner. "We've all done the wild, bright thing," says Mallea. "It just doesn't seem to last quite as long. Our goal is to create spaces that can accommodate changing art, changing flowers, and even changing furniture, because that's how people really live. A primary red kitchen with white trim is fun, but it isn't easy to live with."



◀ "Black-and-white photos and other artworks look best on colored walls rather than white. A colored background makes them really snap. We have designed exhibitions at Sotheby's and found that gilt-wood frames, paintings, photos, and even people usually just look better against color." —Mallea



▲ "Throw an Oriental rug into the kitchen. Kitchens are usually such neutral spaces, and this will add a jolt of color and warmth." —Mallea

START WITH ONE GREAT THING AND WORK FROM THERE. YOU'RE AFTER ONE KEY ELEMENT TO START: A FABRIC, A RUG, THE COLOR OF WOOD STAIN. WE PICK OUT EVERYTHING BEFORE WE GET TO THE PAINT. THEN WE WORK WITH DONALD KAUFMAN TO GET PAINT COLORS THAT WRAP IT ALL TOGETHER. ☺



▲ "Mint julep cups aren't just for juleps. We use them as everyday glasses—you can't break 'em! Between Hermes and me, we have six dozen or so. They just get better with age—a ding here or there gives them character. You can find them all over these days, from Tiffany to Bed Bath & Beyond." —Maloney

▼ "Don't be afraid to mix gold and silver.

For years, I was completely against it. But they play off each other. The cool silver goes up against the warm gold and somehow it works. I set my antique china, which has gray leaves bordered in gold, on inexpensive gold chargers from Pier 1 Imports. It looks great." —Maloney



◀ "Create interest with

different weaves and textures rather than different colors. We love this new collection of shagreen and corrugated wallpapers by Clarence House. You get the solidity and consistency of one color, but also a lively pattern." —Mallea



CONSIDER THE TIME OF DAY YOU'LL MOST LIKELY USE A ROOM. FOR EXAMPLE, A DINING ROOM, WHICH IS A NIGHT ROOM, SHOULD BE A COCOON OF WARM COLOR. A DAYTIME ROOM SHOULD BE LIGHTER. ☺



▲ **"A tight fabric palette creates a simple but very sophisticated effect. These fabrics are in similar colors, but the layering of textures and weights throughout a single room creates vitality and drama."** —Maloney

■ Swatches, from left: J. Robert Scott's Ice Blue, Nancy Corzins's Venetian Toffeta in Dove, Rogers & Goffigon's Bechamel in Tsunami, Etra's Buba, Home Couture's Cocoon Cloth.

➤ **"Use wood tones to warm up a cool color scheme. The honey color of this Biedermeier armoire brings this bedroom's blue-gray color scheme down to earth."** —Mallea



▲ **"We like the exotic, but exoticism shouldn't hit you over the head. These Middle Eastern side tables are a perfect example of what we mean. They have wonderful inlaid designs, but their simple lines complement more restrained furniture; plus, they're light and easy to move. Cluster a few, or place just one. Seek out the best ones—with mother-of-pearl or bone inlay—since some are crudely done. We find great ones at Sutter Antiques [Hudson, NY; 516-822-0729] and John Russell."** —Maloney



◀ **"Relamp every 18 months!**

*Halogen bulbs are used everywhere these days, but over time they go green before actually burning out. You may think you need to repaint, but just change the bulbs and everything is fine again. We recommend GE's Precise MR16 lamp with "ConstantColor Coating."* —Maloney

➤ **"Nothing should be too frigid or too hot—go for balance. For example, on this Biedermeier chair, we love the contrast between the warm wood and the icy blue upholstery. Biedermeier furniture is urbane and stylish. It's also chameleonic. With its simplicity and warm, rich honey color, it mixes well with 20th-century pieces and other wood furniture."** —Mallea

■ Fabric: Rogers & Goffigon's Juliette in Bluestone.



▲ **"A little bit of vivid color goes far. The red lacquer box on top of this armoire really brightens up the corner."** —Maloney

**"WHITE DOESN'T MAKE A ROOM LOOK BRIGHTER OR BIGGER; IT JUST MAKES IT LOOK WHITE."**